

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 705

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage teachers to pursue teaching science, technology, engineering, and math subjects at elementary and secondary schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2009

Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mr. REYES, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage teachers to pursue teaching science, technology, engineering, and math subjects at elementary and secondary schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National STEM Edu-
5 cation Tax Incentive for Teachers Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. REFUNDABLE CREDIT FOR PORTION OF TUITION**
2 **PAID FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION OF**
3 **CERTAIN TEACHERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of sub-
5 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
6 1986 (relating to refundable credits) is amended by by in-
7 serting after section 36 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 36A. TUITION FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION OF**
9 **CERTAIN TEACHERS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who
11 is an eligible teacher for the taxable year, there shall be
12 allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle
13 an amount equal to 10 percent of qualified undergraduate
14 tuition paid by such individual.

15 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

16 “(1) DOLLAR AMOUNT.—The credit allowed by
17 this section for any taxable year shall not exceed
18 \$1,000.

19 “(2) TEACHERS IN HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS DIS-
20 TRICTS.—In the case of one of the first 5 taxable
21 years in which a teacher is an eligible teacher who
22 teaches in an elementary school or a secondary
23 school (as those terms are defined in section 9101
24 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
25 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) receiving funds under part
26 A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.),

1 subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting
2 ‘\$1,500’ for ‘\$1,000’.

3 “(3) CREDIT ALLOWED ONLY FOR 10 YEARS.—
4 No credit shall be allowed under this section for any
5 taxable year after the 10th taxable year for which
6 credit is allowed under this section.

7 “(c) ELIGIBLE TEACHER.—For purposes of this sec-
8 tion—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible teacher’
10 means, with respect to a taxable year, any indi-
11 vidual—

12 “(A) who is a full-time teacher, including
13 a full-time substitute teacher, in any of grades
14 kindergarten through 12th grade for the aca-
15 demic year ending in such taxable year,

16 “(B)(i) who teaches primarily math,
17 science, engineering, or technology courses in
18 one or more of grades 9 through 12 during
19 such academic year, or

20 “(ii) who teaches math, science, engineer-
21 ing, or technology courses in one or more of
22 grades kindergarten through 8 during such aca-
23 demic year,

24 “(C) who, in the case that such individual
25 is a middle or secondary school teacher, re-

1 ceived a baccalaureate or similar degree with a
 2 major in mathematics, science, engineering, or
 3 technology from an institution of higher edu-
 4 cation, and

5 “(D) who is highly qualified (as defined in
 6 section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Sec-
 7 ondary Education Act of 1965).

8 “(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PER-
 9 SONNEL.—School administrative functions shall be
 10 treated as teaching courses referred to in paragraph
 11 (1)(B) if such functions primarily relate to such
 12 courses or are for a school which focuses primarily
 13 on such courses.

14 “(d) QUALIFIED UNDERGRADUATE TUITION.—For
 15 purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified undergraduate
 16 tuition’ means qualified higher education expenses (as de-
 17 fined in section 529(e)(3)) for enrollment or attendance
 18 at an institution of higher education, reduced as provided
 19 in section 25A(g)(2) and by any credit allowed by section
 20 25A with respect to such expenses.

21 “(e) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 22 term ‘institution of higher education’ means an institution
 23 of higher education as defined in section 102 of the Higher
 24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

1 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
2 such regulations as may be appropriate to carry out the
3 purposes of this section.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title
6 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting
7 “36A,” after “36,”.

8 (2) The table of sections for subpart C of part
9 IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Rev-
10 enue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the
11 item relating to section 36 the following new item:

“Sec. 36A. Tuition for undergraduate education of certain teachers.”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
13 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act; except that only
15 periods of being an eligible teacher (as defined in section
16 36A(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added
17 by this section) after such date shall be taken into account
18 under section 36A(b)(3) of such Code, as so added.

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